statement of President General Musharraf to the effect that the 'Vibes that are now coming do not encourage a process of normalisation of relations with Pakistan; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes.

(b) Government remain committed to continue with the ongoing process of confidence building, dialogue and cooperation with Pakistan in an atmosphere free from terrorism and violence.

Participation in SAARC

1489. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision not to participate in the forthcoming SAARC summit to be hosted by Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Inter-University debate conducted by ICWA

1490. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Council of World Affairs had started annual Inter-University Debate in memory of Smt. Indira Gandhi, Champion of World Peace, to provide students a center for national integration;

(b) if so, since when the debate commenced and continued and the number of Universities that took part during the years 1996 to 2002 by sponsoring students for this conference annually; and

(c) how much amount was spent by Government for organizing this debate?